

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ERDA-07 OES-06
AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /120 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. BROWN (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEURCAP GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 1

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 1,
1977:

Q. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS JUST SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS
NOT APOLOGIZED FOR FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER PAUL RAND
DIXON'S DESCRIPTION OF RALPH NADER AS "A DIRTY ARAB"
WHOSE ANCESTRY IS (AND I AM PARAPHRASING) FLECKED WITH
CANINE INFLUENCE.

AND MR. GRANUM EXPLAINED THAT DIXON IS NOT SUBJECT TO
DIRECT CONTROL OF THE PRESIDENT AND THAT DIXON HAD, HE
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UNDERSTOOD, APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY.

MY QUESTION IS: WILL THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE APOLOGIZE, OR
NOT APOLOGIZE, TO THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND ARAB AMERICANS,
FOR THESE REMARKS BY THIS HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT?

A. I HAVEN'T ANY IDEA.

Q. YOU DON'T EVEN SUSPECT THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WOULD WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR SUCH AN HORRENDOUS REMARK?

A. I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IS INTENDED WITH
REGARD TO THIS.

Q. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU COULD TAKE THE QUESTION AND
ASK THE SECRETARY IF HE PLANS TO APOLOGIZE?

A. NO, I DON'T THINK I WILL ASK THE SECRETARY.

Q. YOU DON'T THINK YOU WILL?

A. NO.

Q. AT THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE THIS MORNING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, THE QUESTION OF DIVERTING SOME AMERICAN AID TO EGYPT, APPARENTLY TO HELP OUT EGYPT AND ITS FOOD CRISIS, WAS DISCUSSED -- AND WE WERE TOLD THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE SOME DETAILS ON THIS.

A. "DIVERTING"--I DO NOT THINK IS QUITE THE RIGHT WORD, IS IT?

Q. WELL, YOU USE THE WORD YOU LIKE.

A. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE MEETING THIS MORNING DID UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCERN THE QUESTION OF OUR AID PROGRAM TO EGYPT. AND FOR THE MOMENT, ABOUT ALL I HAVE IS THAT WE ARE LOOKING INTO HOW WE CAN MAKE OUR PRESENT AID PROGRAM TO EGYPT MORE EFFECTIVE. I DO NOT HAVE ANY MORE ON THAT AT THE MOMENT.

Q. NO FIGURES AT ALL?

A. NO. NO FIGURES AT THE MOMENT.

Q. CONGRESSMAN LONG SAID THAT HE WAS TOLD AT THE MEETING THAT THE U.S. WANTED TO DIVERT DOLS 190 MILLION WORTH OF PROJECT AID TO FOOD AID.

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WILL BE LATER TODAY OR TOMORROW, BUT I HAVE NOTHING MORE ON THE NATURE OF THE MEETING THAN JUST WHAT I HAVE TOLD YOU.

Q. YOU SAY YOU ARE LOOKING INTO WAYS OF MAKING THE AID

MORE EFFECTIVE--AND BERNIE WAS ASKING THE QUESTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK -- AND SHIFTING IT TO FOOD.

A. YES.

Q. IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN, TO TAKE EXISTING AID PROGRAMS AND MOVE INTO THE FOOD PROGRAM?

A. I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD BE ONE WAY OF CHANGING THE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM--BUT I SIMPLY DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON WHAT IS BEING CONSIDERED. BUT CERTAINLY, SHIFTING FROM ONE CATEGORY TO ANOTHER MIGHT BE ONE OF THE WAYS TO DO IT, BUT I AM NOT CONVERSANT WITH ANY OF THE DETAILS REGARDING HOW IT MIGHT BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE.

Q. IF YOU DO HAVE THE DETAILS, COULD YOU FIND OUT?
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A. YES, IF WE GET THAT TODAY, I CERTAINLY WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU ALL.

Q. WELL, WE SHOULD GET IT TODAY. AND THE SECOND THING IS, COULD YOU JUST FIND OUT: DOES CONGRESS HAVE TO GIVE FORMAL APPROVAL TO SUCH A CHANGE IN THE USE OF THE MONEY WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROPRIATED? OR IS THIS IN THE NATURE OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS?

A. O.K., IF THAT IS A FACTOR IN THE REEXAMINATION OF THE PROGRAM, I WILL CERTAINLY DETERMINE IT AND GET THE ANSWER TO YOU QUICKLY.

Q. ALL RIGHT, IF WE COULD HAVE A RUNDOWN ON THE U.S. AID CURRENTLY TO EGYPT -- AND IF SOMEONE COULD SPECIFY FOR US ON WHAT IS HYPOTHETICALLY TRANSFERABLE AND MOVABLE IN TERMS OF SHIFTING FROM CATEGORY TO CATEGORY.

A. WE WILL GET THAT READOUT ON PRECISELY WHAT OUR PRESENT AID PROGRAM TO EGYPT IS MADE UP OF. IN TERMS OF SHIFTING THE CATEGORY, IT'S A QUESTION OF THE LAW -- WE CAN CERTAINLY GET YOU A DETERMINATION ON THAT. WE WILL TRY TO DO THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AFTER LUNCH.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE SENTENCE THAT HAS BEEN USED BY SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE. HE TALKS ABOUT THE RECOGNITION OF THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. I KNOW WHAT THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION MEANT BY THAT. COULD YOU ELABORATE ON WHAT THIS PRESENT ADMINISTRATION MEANS BY "THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE

PALESTINIAN PEOPLE?"

A. I COULD NOT REALLY GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT WE HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY WITH REGARD TO THAT PARTICULAR UNCLASSIFIED

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PHRASE. I THINK IT HAS BEEN SAID CONSISTENTLY THAT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IF THERE IS TO BE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND A DURABLE SOLUTION. BEYOND THAT, I REALLY COULD NOT DEFINE "LEGITIMATE."

Q. DOES THAT EXCLUDE SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE?

A. I CANNOT GET INTO ANY KIND OF ELUCIDATION OF WHAT THE TERM MIGHT MEAN.

Q. ON A RELATED MATTER, THERE IS A REPORT IN A KUWAITI

PAPER SAYING THAT JORDAN HAS ALLOWED THE PALESTINIANS TO CONDUCT LIMITED OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVEN YEARS SUCH (INAUDIBLE) WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN. HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT? HAVE YOU SEEN THAT REPORT? HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT?

A. ACTUALLY, I HAVE NOT SEEN THAT REPORT, AND I THEREFORE DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON IT. I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN IT.

Q. HAS ISRAEL REQUESTED THE UNITED STATES PERMISSION TO EXPORT MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO ECUADOR? THE AIRCRAFT SUPPOSEDLY ARE EQUIPPED WITH AMERICAN ENGINES.

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY ISRAELI REQUEST ON THIS.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ONE OTHER QUESTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONCERNING THE IDEA OF DR. WALDHEIM THAT AFTER A CEREMONIAL MEETING THEY SHOULD BREAK DOWN INTO WORKING GROUPS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. AND HE SAID THAT HE DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS THE AMERICAN POSITION ON THIS.

A. I THINK THAT OUR POSITION ON THE SPECIFICS--OR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MODALITIES OF HOW THE PROCESS MIGHT BE MOVED FORWARD--I THINK ANY COMMENT ON THAT IS GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE SECRETARY HAS MADE HIS TRIP, WHICH, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, IS A FACTFINDING AND ESSENTIALLY FAMILIARIZATION TRIP ON THE PART OF THE SECRETARY. AND, AS HE SAID YESTERDAY, WITH REGARD TO PROSPECTS FOR A DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HE IS THEN GOING TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT AND SEE WHAT NEXT STEPS ARE GOING TO BE POSSIBLE. SO, I

REALLY CAN'T OFFER YOU ANYTHING ON SOMETHING AS SPECIFIC AS THAT AHEAD OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS TAKING A SECOND LOOK AT THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND ISRAEL? I ASK THE QUESTION BECAUSE A CONGRESSMAN, WHOSE NAME SLIPS ME --

Q. LONG.

Q. -- APPEARED ON THE WIRE THIS MORNING AND HE WAS UNDER THIS IMPRESSION.

A. I HAVE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THIS POINT. I CAN ONLY SAY WHAT HAS BEEN SAID BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY ABOUT OUR GENERAL REVIEW OF ALL IMPORTANT POLICIES, AND CERTAINLY NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR SALES WOULD BE ONE OF THOSE; BUT I HAVE NO SPECIFIC

INFORMATION ON THE EGYPT OR ISRAELI NUCLEAR DEALS.

Q. TO FOLLOW UP THE QUESTION OVER THERE, THEN YOU CAN ASSURE US THAT YOU HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE IDEA THAT WHEN HODDING CARTER IS CONFIRMED -- AND PRESUMABLY HE WILL BE -- AFTER THAT -- AND HE TAKES OVER AS SPOKESMAN, YOU WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED TO A CONSULATE IN GREENLAND OR UGANDA OR ANY OTHER PLACE; IS THAT RIGHT?

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A. I UNDERSTAND WE DO NOT HAVE A CONSULATE IN GREENLAND.

Q. WE DON'T? NOT IF (INAUDIBLE) YOU DON'T?

Q. YOU MIGHT OPEN IT UP.

Q. TRANSKEI.

Q. THERE USED TO BE (LAUGHTER.)

2. THE FOLLOWING WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING FEBRUARY 1:

Q. WHAT IS OUR CURRENT AID TO EGYPT?

A. CONGRESS APPROPRIATED DOLS 700 MILLION FOR ECONOMIC AID TO EGYPT FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR (1977). IN ADDITION EGYPT IS RECEIVING DOLS 251 MILLION IN PL 480 AID, FOR A TOTAL OF DOLS 951 MILLION IN OVERALL U.S. ASSISTANCE.

Q. WHAT PORTION OF OUR AID FOR EGYPT COULD BE SHIFTED INTO OTHER CATEGORIES?

A. THE DOLS 700 MILLION APPROPRIATED FOR EGYPT IN FY 77, AND ADMINISTERED BY AID, IS PROGRAMMED FOR THREE CATEGORIES: SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CAPITAL PROJECTS, AND COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAMS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD PRACTICE, WE HAVE NOTIFIED CONGRESS THAT WE INTEND TO SHIFT DOLS 190 MILLION, ORIGINALLY EARMARKED FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS, TO THE COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAM, BRINGING THE LATTER TO A TOTAL OF DOLS 440 MILLION IN FY 77. OUR AIM IS TO MAKE THE UNITED STATES AID PROGRAM MORE IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE IN HELPING EGYPT OVER ITS CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. I WANT TO STRESS THAT NO

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NEW AID FUNDS ARE INVOLVED; WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A

REALLOCATION OF FUNDS BETWEEN PARTS OF EXISTING AID PROGRAMS. ACTING AID ADMINISTRATOR JOHN MURPHY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ATHERTON WILL BE APPEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 2) TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES.

VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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